System Leaders Call

November 6, 2026

Office of the Chief of Staff

Lexi Pritchard, Chief of Operations

School System Planning

The 2027-2028 Next Level Vision for Success Planning and Budgeting Workbook, including the 2027-2028 Super App questions, was released on October 29.

View the 2027-2028 School System Planning launch deck for more information and guidance.

New for 2027-2028

- CTE dual enrollment
- Special Education certification
- English Learner certification

Please contact ldoeoperations@la.gov with questions.

Super App Upcoming Dates

Resource	Date/Access Link
2027-2028 Super App Virtual Launch Session	November 12 at 10 a.m.
2027-2028 Super App Office Hours	December 10 at 10 a.m. January 14 at 10 a.m.

Please contact ldoeoperations@la.gov with questions.

FY26 Federal Year-End Deadlines

Federal Funding Drawdown

LEA/Subgrantee Submission Deadline

November

16

2026

Required Submissions

eGMS Claims and Periodic Expenditure Reports (PERs)

Applies to

Federal awards that ended September 30, 2026

Timely submission supports the LDOE's full drawdown of available federal funds.

School Year Progress & Holiday Attendance

Year-To-Date Highlights

70	School systems supported
136	Technical assistance sessions
11	Professional learning & outreach activities

Attendance Planning Reminders

1	Identify historical attendance “dip days” before and after breaks.
2	Design targeted incentives for historically low-attendance days.
3	Schedule holiday celebrations and programs to encourage attendance.

Please contact attendance@la.gov with questions.

2026 SPS Communications Toolkit

Communicating School Performance Scores Under Grow. Achieve. Thrive.

- Support resource to help schools and systems plan for the release of 2026 school performance scores
  - What changed and why
  - Walkthrough of the scorecard
  - Timelines and templates
- Developed in partnership with the Louisiana School Public Relations Association

Please contact ted.beasley@la.gov with questions.

Chief of Staff Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Nutrition Support Monthly Call	November 10 at 1 p.m.
Federal Support & Grantee Relations Monthly Call	November 19 at 10 a.m.
Attendance Monthly Call	December 3 at 8 a.m.

Visit our website for a full list of calls, newsletters, and support:

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Office of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Jenna Chiasson, Deputy Superintendent

Top of Mind: Literacy and Numeracy

Use evidence of student learning to determine where to focus, what to strengthen, and how to monitor progress.

- Verify HQIM unit and lesson preparation prioritizes **grade-level thinking**.
- Ensure students below proficiency receive timely **intervention** and **progress monitoring**.
- Provide feedback on the quality of **Instructional Leadership Team** and **Teacher Collaboration** meetings.
- Visit your schools and ask yourself and your team:

  *Do we see **our district vision** actualized in this school?*

  If not, what can we do about it?

LEADS Updates

Evaluation closeout for 2025-2026 should be near completion.

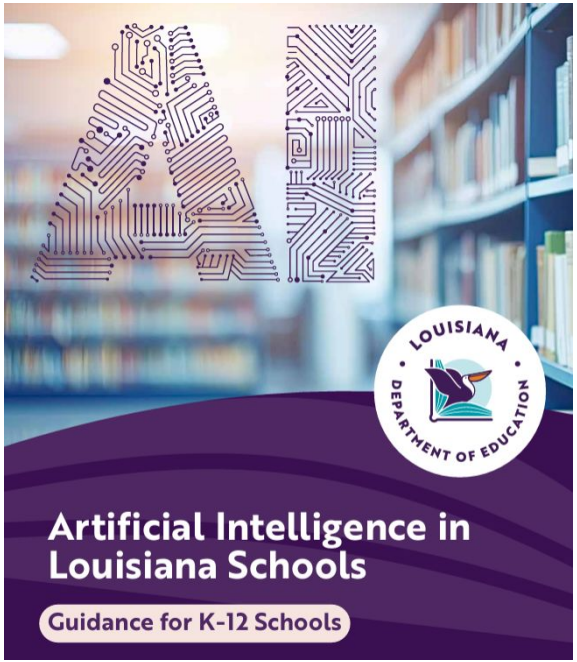
- All 2025-2026 teacher evaluations should be finalized by **November 30**.
- All 2025-2026 leader and counselor evaluations should be finalized by **January 31**, following SPS release this fall.

Evaluations for 2026-2027 should be underway.

- SLTs should be entered and accepted.
- First round observation scores should be entered.
- Coaching plans should be linked.
- Second round observations should be underway.

Please contact leads@la.gov with questions.

AI Technology Evaluation Tool



The AI Technology Evaluation Tool is intended to support school systems' review of AI products and materials. The tool is separated into five sections:

- Safety, Security, and Product Access
- Instructional Alignment and Evidence of Impact (Coherence)
- Functionality
- Training and Support
- Administrative Controls

AI Powered Academic Interventions

AI-Powered Academic Interventions funding may be used to implement or expand evidence-based, AI-driven tools or platforms that:

- Support personalized, adaptive instruction in various content areas; and
- Generate real-time data for educators and families.

School systems can select from several options this year:

- Amira
- Khanmigo
- Writable
- Course Mojo
- Evidenced-based Option

Please contact STEM@la.gov with questions.

2026-2027 Health and PE in Schools Survey

State law requires schools to provide students with daily physical activity and recess and requires the Louisiana Department of Education to monitor and evaluate health, recess, physical activity, and employee training in schools.

Principals should complete the 2026-2027 Health and PE in Schools Survey by **November 15.**

Participation is essential to ensure accurate, high-quality data is collected.

For questions, contact ClassRoomSupportToolBox@la.gov.

Annual Dyslexia Reporting

School systems are required to annually report the number of students with dyslexia. This includes:

- number of students with dyslexia currently enrolled; and
- number of students newly identified with dyslexia during the prior school year.

The dyslexia reporting form is due **December 15**. If there is no data to report, the school system must report zeros.

Dyslexia reporting guidance is available in the Students with Disabilities Library.

International Associate Teacher Recruitment

The 2027-2028 International Associate Teacher (IAT) Program recruitment cycle began on November 1.

Any school or school system interested in recruiting a French or Spanish IAT should reference the Louisiana International Associate Teacher Program Guide for more information on recruitment guidelines and timelines.

To request an IAT for the 2026-2027 school year, school systems should complete the 2027-2028 IAT Projected Needs Form by January 15, 2027.

Please contact language.acquisition@la.gov with questions.

Teaching and Learning Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Education Technology Monthly Call	November 12 at 9 a.m.
Certification Monthly Call	November 16 at 10:30 a.m.
Preparation Provider Monthly Call	November 18 at 10 a.m.
Numeracy Screener Response Office Hours	November 19 at 10 a.m.
LANE Office Hours	December 2 at 9 a.m.
Social Studies Office Hours	December 2 at 3:15 p.m.
Teaching and Learning Monthly Call	December 16 at 1 p.m.

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Office of Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics

Dr. Thomas Lambert, Assistant Superintendent

Early Childhood Accountability

- All Community Network Lead Agencies, Program Partners, and observers have transitioned to the new Early Childhood Observation System (ECOS).
  - Teachers, teaching assistants, and floaters must have an active Louisiana Educator Portal (LEP) Profile and have validated their social security number before they can be added to classrooms and observations in ECOS.
  - Providers and school leaders must request the appropriate user role through EdLink security.
- School and Center Performance Scores/Profiles for the 2025–2026 academic year will be released in the coming weeks.

Please contact accountability@la.gov with questions.

Data System Collections

EdLink 360

- The last day to submit **Dropout Correction** data to the EdLink 360 Dropout Correction module is **November 11 by 5 p.m.**
  - This data is used in the School Performance Profile, Graduation Cohort, and is reported nationally.
- The last day to submit **Fall Staff Vacancy Collection** data to EdLink 360 is **November 11 by 5 p.m.**
  - This data will be reported to BESE and used to support school systems with the recruitment and retention of educators throughout the state.

Student Transcript System (STS)

- The STS will open for 2026–2027 submissions on **December 7.**

Please submit a ticket to the Data Systems Support portal for questions or additional information.

LEAP Fall High School Testing Window

The LEAP Fall High School testing window will be open from **November 30 through December 18**. School system leaders should coordinate with district test coordinators (DTCs) to complete testing preparations and submit schedules to the LDOE by **November 9**.

Important Dates

- **October 19:** Test setup opens in DRC INSIGHT
- **October 26:** Testing manuals posted in DRC INSIGHT
- **November 9:** School system testing schedules due to assessment@la.gov

Please contact assessment@la.gov with questions.

Assessments, Accountability, & Analytics Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Assessment and Accountability Monthly Call	November 17 at 3 p.m.
EdLink 360 Weekly Office Hours	November 10 at 11 a.m.
eScholar Office Hours	November 12 at 10 a.m.
Data Coordinator Monthly Webinar	December 3 at 1 p.m.

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Office of Career and College Readiness

Dr. Ernise Singleton, Assistant Superintendent

Pupil Progression Plans

Louisiana state law (R.S. 17:24.4) requires local education agencies (LEAs) to establish a comprehensive Pupil Progression Plan (PPP) that addresses student placement and promotion.

Pupil Progression Plans should have been submitted as a PDF to ppp@la.gov by **November 2**.

Please contact ppp@la.gov with questions.

Individual Graduation Plan Update

The Individual Graduation Plan (IGP) document has been updated to reflect ACT 144 (2026) requirements. The plan now includes sections for middle school career activities and career interest inventories.

Additional documentation as required by ACT 144 is forthcoming and will be available by May 2027.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

Fall 2026 Counselor Institute

Thank you to all who attended the **Fall 2026 Counselor Institute** sessions!

We hope you benefited from our informative session topics: 2026 Legislative Session, Course Requirements, Safe and Healthy Schools, and Course Choice.

The slide deck and resources are available on the Counselor Support page.

Please contact candace.joseph@la.gov with questions.

Diploma and Diploma Seal Orders

The **Diploma and Seal Order Form** will open on **December 1** to request diplomas for the 2027 high school graduates.

- Form due by **Friday, February 5, 2027**
- Submit one form per school system
- LDOE covers cost of initial order and distribution
- Order 10% overage

Please contact jenny.moran2@la.gov with questions.

Career and College Readiness Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Career and College Readiness Monthly Call	November 19 at 3 p.m.
Alternative Education Quarterly Call	December 2 at 10 a.m.
School Safety Monthly Call	December 9 at 10 a.m.
Safe and Healthy Schools CoP Quarterly Call	January 28 at 2 p.m.

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Office of School Choice

Germain Gilson, Assistant Superintendent

Charter Accountability

The Website Compliance Review will begin in December. Use the 2026-2027 Website Self-Assessment Tool as a guide to ensure all content required is available on the school's website.

All outstanding submissions should be submitted before winter break. Refer to the 2026-2027 Reporting Calendar for due dates and descriptions.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter Authorization Updates

Key Dates for the Local Authorizing

- November 2, 2026: Local board deadline to notify LDOE and state legislators of charter applications received within each district
- January 28, 2027: Deadline to consider charter applications
- January 29, 2027: Deadline to notify LDOE of local board recommendations

Note: If the district has not made a decision by January 28, 2027, the applicant is eligible to appeal to BESE.

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

Charter Authorization Updates

2026-2027 Annual RFA Informational Sessions

The Office of School Choice will host informational sessions for interested applicants. Informational sessions will be offered twice monthly and are designed for applicants interested in applying as a Type 2 or Type 4 charter.

Refer to the available dates below and register for an informational session. All sessions will be held at 10 a.m.

- November 16
- December 7 or 14
- January 4 or 11

Please contact charters@la.gov with questions.

School Choice Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
BESE-Authorized Charters Monthly Call	November 12 at 9 a.m.
Nonpublic Schools Monthly Call	November 18 at 2 p.m.
Local Authorizer Monthly Call	December 9 at 11 a.m.

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Office of School System Relations

Trey Folse, Assistant Superintendent

Staff and Educator Award Applications Open

- Staff and Educator Awards
  - Outstanding School Support Employee of the Year (OSSE)
    - Due December 10
  - School Health Service Provider of the Year (SHSPY)
    - Due December 10
  - Teacher and Principal of the Year
    - Due January 14
  - New Teacher of the Year
    - Due January 14
  - Early Childhood Teacher and Leader of the Year
    - Due January 14

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

Student and School Award Applications Open

- Student Awards
  - Students of the Year
    - Due November 13
- School Awards
  - School Physical Activity Award
    - Due January 21

Please contact excellenteducators@la.gov with questions.

LDOE Disaster Playbook

- LDOE Disaster Playbook
  - The Playbook provides guidance in four key areas:
    - Preparedness and Governance
    - Immediate Response and Documentation
    - Recovery and Financial Stewardship
    - Long-Term Resilience and Improvement
- Emergency Preparedness and Recovery

Please contact healthyschools@la.gov with questions.

Office of Early Childhood Care and Education

Barry Carter, Assistant Superintendent

Act 587 (2026): Program Monitoring

- In November 2026, the LDOE Licensing Team will begin conducting monitoring visits in pre-Kindergarten classrooms as required by Act 587.
- The purpose of these visits is to ensure compliance with the Charlie's Law Child Safety and Welfare Standards and provide guidance as schools implement these requirements.
- Upon arrival, Licensing staff will have visible LDOE identification, sign in at your school's front desk, and request to meet with the Principal or designated representative for your school to state the purpose and process of the visit.

Please contact ldelicensing@la.gov with questions.

Act 587 (2026): Program Monitoring

- Licensing Specialists will conduct the monitoring in all areas where pre-K children are present (e.g., all pre-K classrooms, playgrounds used by pre-K children, and cafeteria areas) to assess compliance with the child safety and welfare standards.
  - Licensing staff will also review any documentation related to the standards that could not be viewed on site.
- Documentation of visits and any violation of the standards will be posted on the LDOE School Finder website under the Early Childhood tab.
  - The system superintendent will also be notified by the LDOE of any complaint about a pre-K program.

Please contact ldelicensing@la.gov with questions.

Early Childhood Funding Spenddown

The LDOE is conducting individual calls with Early Childhood Community Network Lead Agencies and Ready Start Networks to support the timely spenddown of Preschool Development Grant (PDG) funds.

- PDG spenddown calls will continue through December 2026. These calls focus on the timely and allowable use of remaining funds.
- Network Lead Agencies should be prepared to discuss completed and anticipated expenditures and any barriers that may impact full spenddown.
- Please prioritize PDG spending and ensure plans are in place to fully expend remaining funds by **December 30**.

Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with questions.

SmartTeach™ Checkpoint Completion

- The Fall Teaching Strategies SmartTeach™ checkpoint ended October 30.
- The Winter Teaching Strategies SmartTeach™ checkpoint ends on February 26, 2027.
    - School systems should monitor completion rates at the site and classroom levels.

This assessment is mandated through program assurances and included within *Bulletin 140*.

Fall 2026 (October 30)	**Winter 2027** (February 26)	**Spring 2027** (May 31)
80%	85%	90%

Please contact ECAssessment@la.gov with questions.

Early Childhood Calls and Support

Upcoming Calls	Date/Access Link
Early Childhood Community Network Monthly Update Webinar	November 10 at 3 p.m.
Optional Early Childhood Community Network Collaborative Office Hours	November 17 at 1 p.m.

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Please contact earlychildhood@la.gov with questions.

Questions

Thank you for joining today's call!

Our next System Leaders Call is December 4 at 9 a.m.

Schedules, access links, and information on webinars can be found in the LDOE Weekly Newsletter and the School System Support Calendar.

Helpful Links

- LDOE Website
- School Improvement Library

Support Toolboxes

- Teacher
- System
- Principal
- Counselor